

A. A. Butterfield

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Windham Co. Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

CHURCH IN HALIFAX CENTRE, VT.,

September 20 and 21, 1865.

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NEXT SESSION AT PONDVILLE,

Third Wednesday of Sept., 1866.

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SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION AT JAMAICA,

Second Wednesday of June, 1866.

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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known by the name of the WINDHAM COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, and shall be composed of Ministers and Delegates only, who are members of the Churches they represent, excepting such as are invited to a seat by consent of the body.

ART. 2. The design of this Association shall be the promotion of experimental religion and general benevolence, by receiving annual reports from the Churches and corresponding bodies, and by other devotional exercises.

ART. 3. This Association shall meet annually on the third Wednesday in September.

ART. 4. After public worship, the Clerk of the preceding year shall call the Association to order, when a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be chosen by ballot.

ART. 5. Churches on application, and evidence of their regular order and soundness in the faith, by vote of the majority, may be admitted members of this body.

ART. 6. When a Church shall neglect making any communication to this Association for three years, it shall be dropped from the Minutes, unless two or more members of the Association shall request its continuance, and engage to visit said church, and report to the Association at its next session.

ART. 7. This Constitution may be altered by vote of two-thirds of the members present, at any regular meeting, notice having been given of the intended alteration at a previous annual meeting.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. At every sitting business shall be opened and concluded by prayer.

2. Ministers or laymen present, invited to a seat with us, may debate on all subjects, but vote on none.

3. No subject shall be discussed without a motion thereon first made and seconded, and every motion shall be reduced to writing, if required.

4. Every speaker shall address himself to the Moderator; and no one shall speak more than twice on any motion, nor longer than ten minutes at a time, unless by permission of the body.

5. If, when a motion has been made and seconded, a member opposes its being discussed, the Moderator shall immediately put the question: "Shall this question be discussed?" when, if negatived, the question shall be dismissed.

6. These rules shall be read from the Chair, immediately after the organization of the Association.

RESOLUTIONS USUALLY ADOPTED BY BAPTIST CHURCHES.

1. *Resolved*, That we observe the *First Monday in the Year*, as a day of fasting and prayer for the outpouring of God's Spirit upon our churches and the World.

2. *Resolved*, That we observe the *Last Thursday of February*, as a day of prayer for the effusion of God's Spirit upon our colleges and seminaries of learning.

3. *Resolved*, That we observe the *First Sabbath evening of each month*, as a monthly concert of prayer for the success of missions.

MINUTES.

HALIFAX CENTRE, Sept. 20, 1865.

1. The Association convened according to appointment. The introductory discourse was preached by Rev. Horace Fletcher, D. D.; text 1. Sam'l, 11, 14—" *Then said Samuel to the people, come, let us go to Gilgal and renew the Kingdom there.*"

2. Organized by choosing the following officers,—Rev. Horace Fletcher, D. D., Moderator; Rev. T. P. Briggs and A. W. Goodnow, Clerks; and A. Stone, Treasurer.

3. Rules of order read. Prayer by Rev. A. Lamb.

4. A Committee of Arrangements was chosen, consisting of Rev'ds. E. Fish, M. Carpenter, and A. W. Goodnow.

5. An invitation was extended to visiting brethren to participate in our deliberations. Accepted by Rev'ds. J. Sage and C. Brooks, Franklin Association, Mass; H. C. Fish, D. D., New Jersey; Rufus Smith, Missionary and Agent of Vermont Baptist State Convention; and A. Dunbar, Agent of American and Foreign Bible Society, Alfred, Me.

6. Collection for widows of deceased ministers taken up—amount, \$18.00.

7. *Voted*, that this amount, with what is remaining in the Treasury, be paid to Widow Sherwin.

8. Letter from the Halifax Centre Church read, in which they bid the Association welcome to their "hearts and homes."

9. Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. G. O. Atkinson.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

10. Rev. A. Sherwin led in prayer.

11. Resumed and finished reading of the letters from which the following statistics were taken. (See table of statistics.)

12. After the reading of the letters, in view of the many additions to the Churches during the year, the Moderator requested the Rev. M. Carpenter to offer a special prayer of thanksgiving to the Great Head of the Church for these precious blessings.

13. The following Committees were appointed: On Resolutions—Brn. A. Sherwin, I. M. Wilmarth and J. G. Bennet; on Circular Letter—Brn. A. W. Goodnow, A. Lamb and O. Smith; on Obituaries—Brn. G. O. Atkinson, S. A. Blake and C. Farrar; on Next Session—Brn. T. P. Briggs, I. M. Wilmarth and, Dea. J. Greenwood; Auditing Committee—Brn. A. G. Nourse and Stephen Niles.

14. Prayer was offered in behalf of Rev. S. Pierce, who is laid aside from his cherished work by the hand of disease.

15. Listened to a sermon by Rev. H. C. Fish, D. D., of Newark, N. J.; text, Eph. i. 22.

16. Adjourned. Prayer by Rev. R. Smith.

EVENING SESSION.

17. After devotional exercises by Bro. Briggs, a sermon was preached by Rev. A. J. Sage of Shelburne Falls, Me.; text, Rom. viii. 31.

THURSDAY MORNING.

18. After a very interesting season of prayer and exhortation, resumed business.

19. Rev. C. Brooks led in prayer. Minutes of the preceding day read and approved.

20. Reports of Committees which were adopted.

On Resolutions—

Resolved, That in the signal victory of the national arms in suppressing the rebellion in our land, we recognize, with profound gratitude, the hand of God; and, while chastened by the removal of our late honored Chief Magistrate, our prayers shall unceasingly ascend that the blessing of Almighty God may descend upon the President and Congress of the United States that the questions of great public interest now pending may be so decided as to promote the highest interest of the whole nation and secure to all, both white and black, freedom and equal rights before the law.

Voted, that a copy of the foregoing resolution, duly signed, be sent by our clerk to the President of the U. S., which was accordingly done and the following reply was received :

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, D. C., Oct. 3, 1865. }

Rev. T. P. BRIGGS—*Dear Sir*: Be pleased to convey to your Association my thanks for their kindness in forwarding to me the Resolution enclosed to me in your letter of the 26th ult.

I have a confident hope that the same Divine Hand that has held our Nation together through its four years' struggle for life will sustain and guide it to sure prosperity in the future.

Very truly yours,

ANDREW JOHNSON,
President U. S.

Resolved, That the wonderful opening for gospel labor in the far South and West demand that new efforts be made to fill the treasury of the A. B. H. Mission Society; and that the churches be recommended to give their contributions to the freedmen through this our own denominational agency.

Resolved, That we recommend to the Churches of this Association renewed activity in the cause of temperance; that in the family, the church, the Sabbath School, and in the community, earnest efforts be put forth to promote a sound, healthy and vigorous public sentiment that shall demand the enforcement of wise and judicious prohibitory laws.

Resolved, In view of the great destitution of Baptist Churches and ministers in our State, we recommend that earnest prayer and prompt action in raising their respective apportionments for the Vermont Baptist Convention be given by all the Churches comprising this association.

Resolved, that while too much cannot be done for Domestic and Home Missions, we ought still to labor with unabated zeal to spread the "light of life" through the world.

On Circular Letter—recommend that it be read and after some alterations published in the Minutes.

Auditing Committee—report they have examined the Treasurer's account and find it correctly cast and well vouched.

On Obituaries—report, that through the infinite mercy and forbearance of Almighty God, although he has removed, by the hand of death, some of the most useful and beloved members of the Association, yet He has not touched the ranks of the Watchmen on the walls of Zion, for which the Association would return unfeigned gratitude to God.

On Next Session—Recommended that Pondville be the place; Rev. A. Lamb, Preacher; Rev. A. Sherwin, Alternate; and that Rev. J. G. Bennet prepare a historical sketch of the Church in Guilford.

21. *Voted*, that Rev. T. P. Briggs make a report of the Association to the State Convention.

22. *Resolved*, that we tender our united thanks to the Church and friends in Halifax Centre for their hospitalities, and to the choir for their acceptable services.

23. After prayer by Rev. J. G. Bennet, adjourned to meet with the Pondville church on the third Wednesday of September, 1866, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

H. FLETCHER, D. D., *Moderator*.

T. P. BRIGGS,
A. W. GOODNOW, } Clerks.

BENEVOLENCE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	Foreign Missions.	Home Missions.	Bible Cause.	State Convention.	Freedmen.	Publication Society.	Tract Society.	Other Objects.	Total.
BRATTLEBORO,	181 55	.62 10	.....	.49 00	.66 83	.20 00	.....	394 00	773 48
BROOKLINE, .....	.1 75	.7 00	.16 00	.8 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.32 75
DOVER, .....	.3 75	.4 60	.11 25	.7 40	.....	.....	.....	.10 78	.38 25
DUMMERSTON, .....	.57 00	.20 00	.13 20	.18 30	.....	.....	.....	.....	108 50
GUILFORD, .....	.....	.....	.....	.12 00	.6 00	.....	.....	.....	.18 00
HALIFAX WEST, .....	.....	.14 00	.....	.19 00	.34 30	.....	.....	.24 60	.91 90
HALIFAX CENTRE, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	170 00	170 00
JAMAICA, .....	.9 25	.....	.15 52	.19 43	.....	.....	.....	.....	.44 20
PONDVILLE, .....	.28 00	.5 00	.5 00	.22 05	.....	.15 00	.....	.....	.75 05
TOWNSHEND, .....	.....	.....	.28 00	.41 90	.....	.....	.31 00	.....	100 90
WHITINGHAM, .....	.3 00	.9 25	.5 00	.9 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.26 25
WINDHAM, .....	.12 40	.15 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.15 00	.....	.42 20
SAMUEL ALLEN, .....	.1 00	.....	.2 00	.....	.....	.....	.2 00	.....	.5 00

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES AND CLERKS.	MINISTERS AND DELEGATES.	INCREASE			DECREASE					Total.
		Baptized.	Letter.	Experience.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Erased.	Died.	Resident.	
BRATTLEBORO, A. Cheney.	A. SHERWIN, G. E. Higley, A. G. Nourse.	13	18	1	4				126	182
BROOKLINE, J. B. Stebbins.	C. FARRAR, A. S. Merrifield.	3	1				1	1		55
DOVER, E. F. Sherman.	*O. SMITH, Dea. J. P. Gould, N. Lazelle, W. Jones, E. F. Sherman, J. Worden.	1			2			1		49
DUMMERSTON, S. W. Wilson.	M. CARPENTER, J. Greenwood, O. Bailey.	8	1					1	37	51
GUILFORD, J. Carpenter.	J. G. BENNET, Dea. J. Carpenter, E. Thurber, S. Allen, N. Phelps, J. E. Thurber, H. H. Burnett, C. Warren, A. Warner, B. Fessenden, J. Pullen.	4	2		4			2	43	65
HALIFAX WEST, J. Niles.	S. A. BLAKE, Deas. C. Alexander and J. Niles, J. Harris.	1			1		1			58
HALIFAX CENTRE, S. Niles.	S. FISH, Dea. P. Williams, S. Niles.							1		55
JAMAICA, J. Holton.	I. H. WOOD, Dea J. Muzzey.	5	2		2			6	91	125
PONDVILLE, J. Morse.	I. M. WILMARTH, *P. HOWE, Deas. J. Goodnow, J. Morse, N. Morse.				4	1	6	3	80	100
TOWNSHEND, S. Gray.	H. FLETCHER, D. D., Dea. S. Gray, A. Stoddard, J. Holland.	7	2		5			4		226
WARDSBORO, M. A. Knowlton.	*A. B. EGGLESTON, H. Coats, O. Streeter.	2	2		1			1	47	54
WHITINGHAM, R. C. Streeter.	T. P. BRIGGS, A. LAMB, T. WRINKLE, D. Wheeler, R. Brown.	10	1		9			3		62
WILMINGTON, J. Wilson.	A. W. GOODNOW, A. Stone, T. F. Dix, A. Ware, C. D. Ware, J. Smith.	8	4		5			4		83
WINDHAM, C. P. Barrett.	G. O. ATKINSON, E. P. MERRIFIELD, M. Moore, J. W. Moore.	1	1	3	3	11		1		123
CHURCHES 14	PASTORS 14	63	33	5	40	1	19	28		1290

Pastors and ordained Ministers in SMALL CAPITALS ; *Absent ; Licentiates in *italics*.

LELAND AND GRAY SEMINARY, TOWNSHEND, VT.

1865-6.

EDWARD JUDSON, A. B., Principal.

Fall Term begins the last Wednesday in August
 Winter Term begins the last Wednesday in November.
 Spring term begins the last Wednesday in February.
 Summer Term begins the third Wednesday in May.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN HALIFAX, VT.

BY REV. S. A. BLAKE.

The writer regrets to say that he has been unable to gather from any source *whatever*, sufficient materials for a connected and accurate history of this church.

It was organized July 26, 1793, by a council of eight persons from two Baptist Churches in Guilford. A few were present, who, after relating their christian experiences, and views of doctrine—having been previously baptized—appended their names to the following Articles of Faith and Covenant:

1. "We believe in only one living and true God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

2. "We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice."

3. "We believe all those whom God, by the power of his Spirit, calls, converts, regenerates and sanctifies, are his elect."

4. "We believe in the doctrine of original sin."

5. "We believe in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own free will or ability."

6. "We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ."

7. "We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never fall finally away."

8. "We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the subjects of these ordinances."

9. "We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment."

10. "We believe the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal."

11. "We believe that no ministers have a right to the administration of the ordinances, only such as are regularly called, and come under the imposition of hands by the Presbytery."

12. "We believe that the power of government and discipline is wholly in the body of the church. Amen."

The Covenant being the same as that of Wardsboro church is here omitted, (see last year's minutes). The Church was then organized.

During the first eighteen years one hundred and ninety-seven members were added. Most of them proved sincere, devoted christians.

For nearly three years after the formation, this church was supplied with pastoral labor from abroad, until 1796 Elder Abner Bemis received a unanimous call and was settled as their pastor, which relation he sustained for twelve years. He was unlearned, but a man of God, *full* of the Holy Ghost, tender, affectionate in address, winning in manner, lovely in disposition,

and *very* successful in building up Zion. Each year rejoicing converts were added to their number. The last year of his active ministry he baptized fifty, mostly children and youth, whom he designated as his lambs. He was laid aside two years previous to his death, with a painful cancer on his lip. Through this severe illness his people were mindful of his every want. Fourteen young men, by turns, watched nightly by his bedside. He bore with christian resignation and patience his extreme sufferings till death brought a happy release. In his last days the interests of Zion lay nearest his heart. A short time before his death, he said to the brethren, come next Sabbath and take me in my armed chair to God's house once more.— When the Sabbath came, as if by miraculous power, he arose, prepared himself, mounted his horse, rode to the church, entered the sacred desk, and like one just risen from the dead, he delivered to his weeping flock a most touching and eloquent discourse of nearly two hours length. He returned home, exhausted nature gave way, he took his bed and never rose again. He was subsequently able to counsel with his brethren when they were weighing the important question who should be his successor? They met at his residence to prayerfully consider the matter. With one or two exceptions they were unanimous in accepting his choice of Elder Mansfield Bruce, a young brother he had previously baptised. At this period Br. Bruce unexpectedly entered. Father Bemis warmly grasped his hand and said, "My son in the gospel, I leave you in charge of my sheep and lambs, take good care of them." Already had this young brother proved himself "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

Now came trying days for this church. The two dissenting brethren immediately wrote to Elder Elisha Hall to visit them on trial. He received this invitation as a unanimous call from the church, replying in these words: "I have a peculiar regard for the church, and am willing to cast in my lot with them, and live and die with them." He came, and to keep peace, the majority consented for a season. Wholly unlike his predecessor, in a short time he scattered the flock, and all were anxious that he should leave, while he was as determined to stay with them. Fortunately for the church a circumstance occurred which led to his removal. The two following years they were supplied by Bro. Asa Jacobs, beloved by all, and very successful.

In 1814 the Church called Elder Paul Himes to be their pastor, who was devoted and zealous for the truth. During his ministry the Church was blessed with several awakenings, resulting in the conversion of many souls. He might have been more successful, had not some taken advantage of his faults, greatly to the injury of the cause. After a pastorate of seven years, he left the church and society badly divided.

In 1821, Elder Samuel Fish took this charge. His first great work was to get the Church into a harmonious, healthy state. God, true to his promises, began a work of grace the subsequent year, which continued till 1825.

More than fifty put on Christ by baptism. God frequently poured out His Spirit in different Districts until 1831. This year witnessed a powerful revival, and large accessions were made to the church. The last and most powerful work of grace during Father Fish's pastorate commenced in 1842, and continued nearly two years. Near the close of his labors the church and society became divided in relation to the location of a new house of worship. They were called to pass through an unpleasant controversy, finally resulting in a division of the church and the building of two houses of worship, where regular meetings have since been held, and the inhabitants of the town are better accommodated.

Father Fish's pastorate continued thirty years, during which time he had the entire confidence of the people. In reviewing the past he says, "So far as I have been a blessing to Zion; for what I have been and still am, I owe, under God, much to this church." "While the fathers and mothers are sleeping in the dust, who sustained me when a child, I thank God that I have the sympathy and confidence of the present generation to so great an extent." Up to the period of 1853, is it too much to say that few country churches have been equally blest?

After the division, the church proper located their Meeting House at the west part of the town. In 1853 they called Bro. Wm. N. Fay to the pastorate. For upwards of three years he faithfully labored without reaping the desired fruit, consequently he felt it his duty to dissolve his pastoral relation, though against the wishes of all his people. He was succeeded in 1857 by Bro. G. O. Atkinson. His feeble health, the protracted sickness and death of his beloved wife, were some of his severest trials while with this people. During his ministry a few additions were made to the church. In 1862 their present pastor commenced his labors, and, as yet, but little fruit has been gathered.

For many years after the organization of the church, its members, for the most part, were careful to walk strictly in obedience to the commands of Christ. They passed a vote not to receive any charge against a member except said charge was made according to the rule given in the gospel—Matt. 18th. They were careful not to exclude a member without sufficiently clear evidence of the truthfulness of the alleged accusation, and not then until they had solemnly admonished the offender to return. The church was then a nursery of piety, a light in the community, and a real blessing to its entire membership. All grievances on the part of the brethren against individual members, or of individual members against the church, were heard, carefully weighed, and, when worthy of expression, or of discipline, they they were so disposed of.

From 1812 to 1850 we should judge by the record, but little else was done by the church except to hear offences, to appoint committees, to hear their reports, and to discipline members. Grievances were brought against the church in every variety of form. One brother cannot walk with the

church because the members have become so corrupt; another believes the church heretical in doctrine; another because the church fellowships disorderly members; and still another because the church believes and practices that which the Bible does not teach; declaring them too formal in their mode of worship; that those redeemed by the blood of Christ have no right to take part in Civil Government, and that Associations are unscriptural.

Accusations of individual members against other members were very numerous. Members were admonished, or disciplined, or both, for absenting themselves from Covenant meetings or from public worship for six months; for slander, falsehood, heresy, and for uniting with other denominations. Space forbids detail.

The church has sent forth some prominent ministers of the gospel, and some very useful brethren in the various callings of life. Among the former stand the names Merrifield Bruce, A. Danforth, for several years a missionary; he returned with impaired health, engaged for some time in the service of the C. Com., finally settled in Providence, and, over taxed in body and mind he sunk into a premature grave; H. C. Fish, the worthy and efficient pastor of the first Baptist church, Newark, N. J., and A. J. Tucker, who during a powerful revival of religion in Dedham, Mass., overworked, and not long after died with consumption, in manhood's prime.

This church has been a light, scattering its diverging rays far and near; and, while many of its members and ministry are dead "they yet speak to us." Upon whom has their mantle fallen? on whom shall it fall? Shall we say its days of prosperity are ended. It is more than twenty years since the church has enjoyed an extensive revival of religion. The very few additions made have not kept pace with the deaths and removals. In twelve years eight only have been baptised. The majority of the members are rising fifty, and there are but two under twenty years of age.

DIGEST OF LETTERS.

BRATTLEBORO.—The past year has been with us one of apparent prosperity. Although we cannot report an extensive revival of religion, there has been a greater than ordinary degree of religious interest. While we have received considerable accession to our numbers death has not once entered our ranks. In Nov. last Rev. M. Carpenter, after a ministry of about six years, resigned the pastorate. In January following Rev. A. Sherwin of Pawtucket, R. I., accepted our call and entered at once upon his labors.

BROOKLINE.—During the fall and winter our meetings were interesting and well attended. On the first of January, one young lady came forward for baptism, willing to come out singly and alone and join herself to the christian church—the allurements of the world and the chilling frosts of mid winter were insufficient to keep her from duty. About the first of March our venerable and beloved pastor was suddenly stricken down by disease. After a severe run of fever he began to recover, slowly, and it was hoped that he would soon be able to resume his pastoral labors. But, at length, on account of continued feeble health, he felt impressed that his work was done, and asked to be relieved from his charge. In May, the church extended a call to Rev. C. Farrar, which was accepted. Our meetings and Sabbath School are well attended. Two have recently been baptised. Our earnest prayer is that these may be but “the scattering drops before a plentiful shower.” We confess that we are cold and barren to what we should be in all the christian graces. We ask your prayers and sympathies.

DOVER.—Great changes have occurred among us as a church and congregation during the year, bringing sadness and sorrow to many a heart. A large proportion of the families connected with our congregation have been visited by death. Death has selected his victims from all ages. Have been favored with the labors of our Pastor during the year and at times it has seemed as if the Holy Spirit was ready to perform His appointed work in regenerating the heart, but from want of faith and importunate prayer, but little has apparently been accomplished; yet we can but hope that the seed sown will spring up and bear fruit. We are confident that the solemn events which have occurred among us will either soften the heart and make it more susceptible to religious influences, or like the judgments of God upon Pharaoh make it more hard and obdurate. We pray that the former and not the latter may be the case.

DUMMERSTON.—At the last session of your body we were without an “under-shepherd” and in a low and discouraged state, unable to agree upon any practical course of action. In December, Rev. M. Carpenter began to labor among us, and we have had preaching ever since, and prayer and conference meetings every week. Our congregation has steadily increased. Our Sab-

bath school has been revived in interest and numbers, and the library increased by the addition of nearly \$40 worth of new books. Some precious souls have been converted to Christ. We are encouraged to hope for greater things than we have already seen—that God will “revive his work and make bare his arm” for the salvation of many of the lovely youth who constantly attend with us upon the means of grace.

GUILFORD.—Death has been making inroads upon our members, and removed some who were beloved to the church triumphant. Sister Yaw died in September, aged 93. She had been a constant member of the church 70 years. After a long and distressing illness she died in peace. In March, our sister Nichols died. Her illness was short—her death triumphant.—During the fall and winter a cloud of mercy seemed hanging over us, and we fondly anticipated we were about to enjoy a precious revival. But for some reason the work was hindered. Although our congregation has been increasing, with a good attention to the word preached, and some appear to be anxious for their souls, yet we cannot cheer you with the intelligence of a glorious revival. We have been permitted the joy of baptizing four persons. Brethren, we solicit your prayers that the long sought blessing be not delayed.

WEST HALIFAX.—We have occasion still to regret that we have no better report to make. Yet our congregation has been larger than usual the past year. No grievous wolves have entered to bite and devour the flock. Have enjoyed the labors of our pastor, in whom we are all united. One young person has been converted and united with the church. At his own request, we cheerfully gave the services of our pastor six weeks to the Christian Commission. A part of this time were supplied by ministering brethren in this Association for which we are very grateful.

HALIFAX CENTRE.—Have been blest with a usual measure of prosperity. Harmony and unanimity of feeling have been enjoyed; and we have only to mourn a want of spirituality, which is so necessary to our advancement in the christian life, and our usefulness to the unconverted around us. One of our members, A. Christy, has fallen in the sacred contest for truth and freedom.

JAMAICA.—During the year have passed through many trials; some not unlike the one Paul describes as the worst of perils. Still the Lord has prospered us in many things. There have been some conversions. We now enjoy the pastoral labors of Rev. I. H. Wood. We anticipate much good as our meetings are full and interesting.

PONDVILLE.—Have been favored with the constant and faithful preaching of the gospel during the year by our beloved pastor and his son, Rev. Jas. W. Wilmarth, now pastor of the Baptist church in Amenia, N. Y. We are united as pastor and people and live and labor in harmony. Congregations usually good in fair weather. There is a general harmony in the church,

but are too languid in the service of our master, and hope and pray for the reviving influences of the Holy Spirit.

TOWNSHEND.—Soon after the last meeting of the Association it was seen that there were evidences of more than ordinary religious interest. The Sabbath evening prayer meetings in the Chapel of the Academy were largely attended and of thrilling interest. Soon were heard the cries of penitence and the accents of joy for pardon and forgiveness. These meetings continued full of interest during the fall, and the result was the conversion of ten or twelve young persons. On the 13th of Nov., a very stormy, inclement day, seven willing and rejoicing candidates were baptized. The pleasant scene of religious interest passed away, and we are relapsed into a state of lukewarmness which ought never to characterize the people of God. Father Farwell, whom you have so often seen at these gatherings, has gone to his reward, in the triumphs of faith, at the ripe age of 85. Sabbath services have been well sustained through the year. Have been united and harmonious as a church.

WARDSBORO.—There has been some more than usual interest shown, and a few conversions. We hope the time is not far distant when we shall see many coming to the Saviour.

Have maintained a weekly prayer meeting most of the time during the year; but few have attended constantly,—this is true but mournful. We think and talk about waking up, and being more active, but don't do it. All at peace among ourselves. Our meetings on the Sabbath are well attended. All well united in our Pastor.

WHITINGHAM.—We can truly say the Lord has blessed us by adding to our number through the labors of our faithful and beloved Pastor. Some of our prominent members have moved away, but we trust they are useful in their present fields of labor. A number of our brethren have returned from the service of their country to enter more fully into the service of the Lord. Two of our young and truly faithful brethren, Sidney Bigelow and Landsford Brown have lain down their lives in the defence of their country. We have some faithful brethren and sisters, yet as a Church are living far beneath our privilege.

WILMINGTON.—Have enjoyed a good degree of prosperity. During the winter there was more than usual interest in the Church; and meetings held in a school house in the north part of the town were fully attended and blessed. In our first meetings it was evident that God was there. Soon many were anxiously inquiring the way of salvation. Most of the families in this district shared in the saving influences of the Holy Spirit. Twenty or more gave evidence of having passed from death unto life. We united with the Methodists in this work. Some united with them and others with the Congregationalists. Some on witnessing our first baptismal scene were impressed with their need of salvation and were led to seek the Saviour.

The spirit of harmony prevails among us, yet we have too little zeal, too little faith and prayer.

WINDHAM.—Our experience has neither been all shade or all sunshine. Our sabbath services are attended by a full and attentive audience. But we are wanting in Aarons and Hurs to steady the hands of our Pastor. Some are interested but the mass are indifferent. It seems inconsistent that among such a large and appreciative audience there should be so few dilligent workers. Have felt it our duty the past year to rid ourselves of some of our unservicable members. Brethren pray for us that God may revive us again.

MINUTES OF THE S. S. CONVENTION HOLDEN AT SOUTH WINDHAM, VT. JUNE 14TH, 1865.

The Windham County Baptist Sabbath School Convention met with the South Windham School and its invited guests, on the grounds of the Church and parsonage; which were very prettily filled up with trees for a shade, and very acceptable too, as the sun was hot. The Clerk called the Convention to order, and it organized by choosing Hon. Abishai Stoddard, of Townshend, President. Rev. A. W. Goodnow, of Wilmington, Vice-President. C. L. Brown, of Brattleboro, Secretary, and Rev. S. A. Blake, of Halifax, Treasurer. Committee of arrangements reported the order for the day, which was accepted. Heard the letter from South Windham. Prayer by Rev. M. Swain of Grafton. Annual Address by Rev. T. P. Briggs. Theme, Temperance. Adjourned one hour for refreshments.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Singing by the Choir. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Harris, of Windham. The letters from the Schools were read. Remarks were then made by Judge Stoddard and Rev. Messrs. Swain, Goodall and Harris. Essay from Rev. A. W. Goodnow, on "What are the most important things in a Sabbath School?" This was an able paper and listened to with a great deal of interest, but it and the preliminary speeches and exercises having consumed all of the time, it was thought best to draw the Convention to a close. Next Session at Jamaica. Rev. Aldin Sherwin, preacher. Rev. Mr. Wood, substitute. Rev. Mr. Eggleston, Essayest. Committee of Arrangements, Dr. Holton of Jamaica, Edward Thurber, of Guilford, S. W. Wilson, of Dummerston. Voted, that the following Resolutions be appended to our Minutes:

Resolved, That whereas Temperance is a cardinal Christian virtue, sadly neglected by some professed lovers of Christ and humanity, therefore, resolved that we will give more prayerful attention to the subject, and will put forth more earnest effort to establish a more correct public opinion in this direction, especially in the suppression of the unlawful and unholy traffic in intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

Resolved, That we recommend to each School of this Convention the formation of a Temperance Society.

Voted, The thanks of this Convention to the Windham people for their generous entertainment, to the Choir and Band, for their invaluable assistance on this occasion.

Concluding prayer, by Rev. G. O. Atkinson. Doxology, by the whole congregation. Adjourned to meet at Jamaica, on the second Wednesday of June, 1866, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

H. FLETCHER, *President*.

C. L. BROWN, *Secretary*.

STATISTICS.

SCHOOLS.	SUPERINTENDENTS.	Teachers.	Scholars.	No. of Weeks.	Monthly Concerts.	Conversions.	Deaths.	Volumes in Library.
BRATTLEBORO,	A. G. Nourse,	15	125	52	Yes.	10		500
BROOKLINE,	O. C. Merrifield,	7	85	30	"	1	1	310
EAST DOVER,	Whitney Jones,	8	60	26	"		1	150
DUMMERSTON,	S. W. Wilson,	7	60	52				
GUILFORD,	S. Wheeler,	7	60	20	"		2	270
HALIFAX, WEST	S. A. Blake,	10	80	52	"	2	2	500
HALIFAX CENTRE,	F. H. Niles,	5	70					420
JAMAICA,	Abijah Moory,	13	90	52	"	6		
PONDVILLE,	Joshua Morse,	9	75	52	"		1	300
TOWNSHEND,	Abishai Stoddard,	16	154	52		7		500
WEST WARDSBORO,	J. Allen,	10	65	33	"	5	2	
WILMINGTON,	Ashley Stone,	13	120	52	"	10	4	
WINDHAM,	Joseph Jennison,	10	100					300
WHITINGHAM,	T. P. Briggs,	5	65	52		10	2	150

DIGEST OF SABBATH SCHOOL LETTERS.

BRATTLEBORO.—The past year has been one of unusual interest, never more prosperous.

BROOKLINE.—An interesting School.

EAST DOVER.—Goodness and mercy have followed us.

DUMMERSTON.—A good interest.

GUILFORD.—Greater encouragement than last year.

HALIFAX WEST.—Interest and numbers good.

HALIFAX CENTRE.—Increasing interest.

JAMAICA.—Good seed has been sown.

PONDVILLE.—Able to report more interest.

TOWNSHEND.—Usual interest maintained.

WEST WARDSBORO.—Our motto, onward and upward.

WILMINGTON.—All are interested.

SOUTH WINDHAM.—A more lively sense of the importance of Sabbath Schools.

WHITINGHAM.—We beg an interest in your prayers.

Compendium of the Association from the time it assumed its present name in 1835 to 1865.

YEAR.	PLACE.	MODERATOR.	CLERK.	AUTHOR OF CIRCULAR LETTER OR HIST. SKETCH.	PREACHER.	Churches.	Baptisms.	Experience	Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Dropped.	Excluded.	Died	Total.
1835	Marlboro,	M. Bruce,	A. Lamb,		A. Lamb,	12	16	22	2	26	8	5	1006		
1836	Wardsboro,	M. Bruce,	Z. Howard,		P. Howe,	12	48	23	1	15	3	18	1012		
1837	Brookline,	M. Bruce,	Z. Howard,		M. Bruce,	12	22	11	18	7	17	1001			
1838	Guilford,	M. Bruce,	Z. Howard,		D. M. Crane,	13	111	36	3	41	9	9	1165		
1839	Putney,	M. Bruce,	S. Fish,		M. Bruce,	13	24	16	4	26	9	20	1197		
1840	Wilmington,	M. Bruce,	F. Hartwell,		P. B. Fiske,	14	157	60	7	50	30	14	19	1096	
1841	Jamaica,	M. Bruce,	M. Field,		F. Hartwell,	14	13	37	40	7	33	1198			
1842	Whitingham,	P. Howe,	M. Frary,		M. Field,	14	51	31	37	10	26	1192			
1843	Dunmeston,	S. Fish,	J. C. Foster,		S. Kingsbury,	14	204	37	7	13	97	13	23	1247	
1844	Pondville,	M. D. Miller,	J. C. Foster,		J. C. Foster,	14	10	25	1	38	8	23	30	1194	
1845	Halifax,	M. D. Miller,	J. C. Foster,		N. Ames,	14	5	14	1	17	7	37	23	1095	
1846	Brookline,	M. D. Miller,	J. C. Foster,		J. C. Foster,	13	5	20	25	12	18	1081			
1847	Guilford,	M. D. Miller,	J. C. Foster,		M. D. Miller,	12	6	31	15		2	35	1032		
1848	Brattleboro,	A. Lamb,	J. C. Foster,		A. Lamb,	12	5	22	1	36	3	16	15	991	
1849	Wardsboro,	A. Lamb,	J. C. Foster,		J. F. Wilcox,	12	13	35	1	28	36	7	14	898	
1850	Wilmington,	A. Lamb,	J. C. Foster,		T. H. Crowley,	12	42	1	29		3	22	904		
1851	Jamaica,	A. Lamb,	J. C. Foster,		R. Smith,	12	87	283	5	31		6	10	957	
1852	Whitingham,	J. C. Foster,	O. Smith,		J. C. Foster,	12	14	25	1	15	1	10	955		
1853	Pondville,	J. C. Foster,	O. Smith,		A. Lamb,	13	27	27	1	57	1	5	10	945	
1854	Dover,	J. C. Foster,	O. Smith,		M. Ball,	13	17	2	32	1	31	7	5	17	899
1855	Halifax,	J. C. Foster,	Wm. N. Fay,		J. C. Foster,	13	11	1	20	1	35	1	5	13	903
1856	Brookline,	A. Lamb,	E. P. Merrifield,		J. P. Huntington,	13	30	2	31	1	28	5	7	12	916
1857	Guilford,	P. S. Adams,	E. P. Merrifield,		O. Smith,	15	41	4	28	1	34	1	2	9	1341
1858	Brattleboro,	P. S. Adams,	I. C. Carpenter,		H. Fletcher,	15	45	2	40	1	2	23	1304		
1859	Wilmington,	H. Fletcher,	E. P. Merrifield,		E. A. Briggs,	15	88	1	32	3	21	3	15	21	1396
1860	Townshend,	M. Carpenter,	E. P. Merrifield,		Geo. Carpenter,	15	38	5	31	2	31	20	7	18	1400
1861	Wardsboro,	M. Carpenter,	E. P. Merrifield,		A. W. Goodnow,	14	8	1	6	1	16	7	4	26	1344
1862	Jamaica,	M. Carpenter,	E. P. Merrifield,		N. Cudworth,	14	24	4	10	1	15	7	8	18	1322
1863	Dunmeston,	M. Carpenter,	T. Winkle,		M. Carpenter,	14	24	1	16	1	15	7	5	31	1309
1864	Dover,	M. Carpenter,	T. P. Briggs,		G. O. Atkinson,	14	30	2	19	1	23	13	9	33	1227
1865	Halifax Centre,	H. Fletcher,	T. P. Briggs,		H. Fletcher,	14	63	5	33	40	19	1	23	1	1290

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